

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**  
-----

Please add the following new heading and new paragraph immediately after the title on page 1 of the present specification, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.78:

**Cross Reference to Related Patent Applications**

This non-provisional application is a divisional of non-provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 10/117,859 filed April 8, 2002, now allowed, benefit of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120 and which in turn claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. provisional Application No. 60/286,235 filed April 25, 2001, priority benefit of which is also claimed for the present divisional application.

  
-----

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 4, line 30 and ends on page 5, line 2, with the following replacement paragraph:

wherein A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W, N is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Te and Se, and X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, Ti, Al, Zr, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ni, Pt, Bi, B, In, As, Ge, Sn, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Fr, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ra, Hf, Pb, P, Pm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Au, Ag, Re, Pr, Zn, Ga, Pd, Ir, Nd, Y, Sm, Tb, Br, Cu[[,]] and Sc, ~~Cl, F and~~ I,

-----  
Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 9-14, with the following replacement paragraph:

wherein A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W, N is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Te, Se and Sb, and X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, Ti, Al, Zr, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ni, Pt, Bi, B, In, Ce, As, Ge, Sn, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Fr, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ra, Hf, Ag, Pb, P, Pm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Au, Ag, Re, Pr, Zn, Ga, Pd, Ir, Nd, Y, Sm, Tb, Br, Cu[[,]] and Sc, ~~Cl, F and I~~,

-----  
Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 4-9, with the following replacement paragraph:

wherein A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W, N is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Te, Sb and Se, and X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, Ti, Al, Zr, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ni, Pt, Bi, B, In, As, Ge, Sn, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Fr, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ra, Hf, Pb, P, Pm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Au, Ag, Re, Pr, Zn, Ga, Pd, Ir, Nd, Y, Sm, Tb, Br, Cu[[,]] and Sc, ~~Cl, F and I~~; and

-----  
Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 18-23, with the following replacement paragraph:

wherein A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W, N is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Te and Se, and X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, Ti, Al, Zr, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ni, Pt, Bi, B, In, As, Ge, Sn, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Fr, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ra, Hf, Pb, P, Pm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Au, Ag, Re, Pr, Zn, Ga, Pd, Ir, Nd, Y, Sm, Tb, Br, Cu[[,]] and Sc, ~~Cl, F and I~~; and

-----

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 7, line 29 and ends on page 8, line 2, with the following replacement paragraph:

wherein A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W, N is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Te, Se and Sb, and X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, Ti, Al Zr, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ni, Pt, Bi, B, In, Ce, As, Ge, Sn, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Fr, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ra, Hf, Pb, P, Pm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Au, Ag, Re, Pr, Zn, Ga, Pd, Ir, Nd, Y, Sm, Tb, Br, Cu[[,]] and Sc, ~~Cl, F and I~~, and

-----

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 15-22, with the following replacement paragraph:

wherein A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W, N is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Te, Se and Sb, and X is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, Ti, Al Zr, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ni, Pt, Bi, B, In, Ce, As, Ge, Sn, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Fr, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Ra, Hf, Pb, P, Pm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Au, Ag, Re, Pr, Zn, Ga, Pd, Ir, Nd, Y, Sm, Tb, Br, Cu[[,]] and Sc, ~~Cl, F and I~~, wherein A, V, M and X are present in such amounts that the atomic ratio of A : V : N : X is a : b : c : d, and